

8TH NOVEMBER 2020

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



[www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk)

Our service today is led by Rev Hector Mackenzie.

Hector, a native of Skye, is a Church of Scotland minister and currently serves as an Army Chaplain. He is based in England. You can also watch his recorded service on our Facebook page and on our website [www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk)





We have gathered this morning to remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away. We remember all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.

We commit ourselves to work in humility and faith for reconciliation between the nations, that all people may live together in freedom, justice and peace.

#### **Act of Remembrance**

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them. All say: We will remember them.

#### **Silence**

#### **The Kohima Epitaph:**

When you go home tell them of us and say, "For your tomorrow we gave our today." In memory of those who have died, may we be better men and women; and in gratitude to God, may we live as those who are not their own but who are bought with a price.



## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **MICAH 4: 1 - 3**

1 In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.

2 Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

3 He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

### **2ND THESSALONIANS 3:7-13**

7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you,

8 nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, labouring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you.

9 We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate.

10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."

11 We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies.

12 Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat.

13 And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.

# ADDRESS

I have to admit that I am a bit of a hoarder when it comes to certain things – letters in particular. Only recently I came across some letters that I had received whilst overseas and the memories came flooding back. Letters from and to the front are significant: we are so used to texting, messaging, emailing, what's app-ing, snap-chatting, face-booking etc etc today that the simple letter has lost some of its power on a daily basis, but when all other means of communication are removed, the humble letter gets back its power to bring joy, and connected-ness and so much more into our lives.

Those of us have had the experience of writing a last letter to a loved one, just in case. It is a painful, sombre, thought-provoking, humbling experience. It is something that service personnel have down for a long, long time. Let me read you a few examples from down the years:

The Honourable Samuel Barrington, age 19. Died: Quatre Bras, France, 1815 wrote these words two days before the Battle of Waterloo: *'If I escape with my whole skin, I shall think myself well off and be thankful. If on the contrary some unlucky ball finished me, I trust I shall not be wholly unprepared to face danger and death.'*

Second Lieutenant Eric Heaton, age 20. Died: The Somme, 1916. From his dugout, he wrote to his parents: *'My darling Mother and Father, I am writing this on the eve of my first action. Tomorrow we go to the attack in the greatest battle the British army has ever fought. I cannot quite express my feelings on this night and I cannot tell if it is God's will that I should come through – but if I fall in battle then I have no regrets save for my loved ones I leave behind. It is a great cause and I came out willing to serve my King and Country. My greatest concern is that I have the courage and determination necessary to lead my platoon well.'*

Pilot Officer Michael Andrew Scott, age 24. Died over the English Channel, 1941. He wrote to his parents: *'You know now that you will not be seeing me anymore, and perhaps the knowledge is better than the months of uncertainty which you have been through. There are one or two things which I should like you to know, and which I have been too shy to let you know in person. Firstly, let me say how splendid you both have been during this terrible war. Neither of you have shown how hard things must have been, and when peace comes this will serve to knit the family together as it should always have been knit. As a family we are terribly afraid of showing our feelings, but war has uncovered unsuspected layers of affection beneath the crust of gentlemanly reserve.'*

Lieutenant Colonel Herbert 'H' Jones VC, age 42. Died Goose Green, Falklands, 1982. Ten days before he was killed charging at enemy positions, for which he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, he wrote to his wife, Sara. He said: *'I don't suppose there's any chance of anything happening to me, but just in case I want to tell you how very much I love you, and thank you for being such a super wife for the last 18 years. Marrying you was the best thing that ever happened to me, and thanks to you I can look back on a life that has been pretty good so far. I've been very lucky – let's hope my luck holds.'*

Gunner Lee Thornton, age 22. Died: Iraq, 2006. He wrote to his fiancée, Helen: *'I don't know why I am writing this because I really hope that this letter never gets to you, because if it does that means I am dead. Just because I have passed away does not mean I am not with you. I'll always be there looking over you, keeping you safe. So whenever you feel lonely, just close your eyes and I'll be there right by your side. I really did love you with all I had, you were everything to me.'*

Guardsman Neil 'Tony' Downes, age 20. Died: Afghanistan, 2007. He wrote to his girlfriend Jane: *'Hey beautiful! I'm sorry I had to put you through all this, darling. I'm truly sorry. Just thought I'll leave you with a last few words. All I wanna say is how much I loved you and cared for you. You are the apple of my eye and I will be watching over you always. Bet my bloody lottery numbers will come up, ha ha! Jane, I hope you have a wonderful and fulfilling life. Get married, have children etc. I will love you forever and will see you again when you are old and wrinkly! I have told my parents to leave you some money out of my insurance, so have fun babe OK... gonna go now beautiful. Love you forever.'*



Dreams, fears, ambitions, thank yous, all manner of emotion and feeling poured out with ink and contained on sheets of paper. Some people want to rekindle lost relationships with family members, others just want to tell their loved ones that they love them, and for others, there is the sense that they wanted to make a difference. Which brings me back to one sentence at the very end of today's second reading which says, '...never tire of doing good'.

For many of us there is a deep sense of wanting to make our lives count, to make a difference. Some of us think that we ourselves do not have what it takes to really impact the world in any great way. That is not the case: we are all capable of making a massive difference in the lives of those round us, even in the minute things of every day. Gandalf said that, *"Some believe it is only great power that can hold evil in check, but that is not what I have found. It is the small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love. Why Bilbo Baggins? Perhaps because I am afraid, and he gives me courage."*

Do not underestimate the power and influence of your life for good. And may each one of us, as we remember the fallen, pledge to live in a way that champions peace and justice, and May God give us the strength and the wisdom to do just that.

## PSALM 72: 17 - 19

His name for ever shall endure;  
last like the sun it shall:  
Men shall be blessed in him, and blessed  
all nations shall him call.

Now blessèd be the Lord our God,  
the God of Israel,  
For he alone doth wondrous works,  
in glory that excel.

And blessèd be his glorious name  
to all eternity:  
The whole earth let his glory fill.  
Amen, so let it be.

## BENEDICTION

**Lord God our Father, may we serve you and all humanity, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest upon, and remain with you, now and forever. Amen**





*Hello everyone !*

*I'm planning to set up a weekly Zoom Coffee & Chat beginning on Saturday 14th November at 10am. The plan is to meet and catch up for some fellowship together for no more than an hour, and folks can come and go as they are able. If you would like to join us, please email me at [Alister.Murray@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Alister.Murray@churchofscotland.org.uk). Then I can add you to the weekly email invite that needs to be sent with the link to join the meeting. Look forward to hearing from you and seeing you on the 14th if you can make it.*

Alister Murray

## GUILD

The Guild would like to encourage you to help them knit 'little angels' as a Christmas "minding" for folk in local care homes. Patterns are available from Janet Winchester (865308) or Elizabeth Blackburn (861593). If angels could be complete by the end of November that would be very helpful and much appreciated.

## WORSHIP UPDATE

Services re-started in the Church in Conon Bridge on a trial basis on Sunday 25th October. Depending on demand there are planned to be two Sunday services, at 11am and 12.15pm. The services will run initially on a trial basis, and seating is limited to comply with guidelines. To attend you must contact the Session Clerk, Martin McLauchlan, by Friday at 5pm prior to the service to book a place.

To book, either visit the church website, and complete and submit the online booking form at: [ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk/booking](http://ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk/booking) or email the Session Clerk at [SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk) and he will send you a link to the Booking Form for you to complete and submit. If you do not have access to the Internet, phone him on 01349 830303 and leave your name and phone number and he will get back to you as soon as he can to take your details.

Martin McLauchlan, Session Clerk